

Bossies Golf Championship Official Rulebook

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Core Rules Breakdown

All red, yellow, and out-of-bounds (OB) situations are treated uniformly as Red Penalty Areas under this tour's Local Rule modification.

Lost Ball

A ball not found within three minutes is lost. Standard stroke-and-distance applies unless the ball is reasonably believed to be in an area treated as a Red Penalty Area, where lateral or back-on-the-line relief is allowed.

Wrong Ball

In match play, playing a wrong ball results in immediate loss of the hole. The correct ball must be located and played for subsequent holes.

Penalty Areas

All penalty areas—red, yellow, and OB under the tour rule—use red penalty area relief. Options include lateral relief, back-on-the-line relief, or stroke-and-distance.

Out of Bounds Treated as Red Penalty Area

OB is never replayed from the tee. Instead, players take one-stroke penalty relief using red penalty area options.

Dropping Procedure

Players must drop from knee height, the ball must remain in the relief area, and may be placed after two failed drops (a failed drop occurs if the ball does not come to rest within the relief area).

Common Recreational Rules

Free relief from immovable obstructions; unplayable ball options; embedded ball relief; accidental movement on green without penalty; flagstick-in putting allowed.

Professional Golf Rules for Tour Use

- Placing in the fairway within 1 club length, no closer to the hole is allowed. Otherwise play the ball as it lies unless relief is permitted.
- Honour on first tee by draw or order; subsequent holes by previous hole winner.
- Ready Golf permitted.
- Maximum ball search time is 3 minutes.
- Scorecards must be correct and verified.
- Distance-measuring devices allowed unless otherwise stated no slope on rangefinders.
- No advice may be given except between partners.
- Practice swings may not improve conditions.
- Ball must be teed within tee markers.
- No penalty if ball falls off tee before stroke. No penalty if ball accidentally moves on the green, play from previous position.
- Free relief from abnormal course conditions (GUR, immovable objects, cart path).
- Embedded ball relief in general area (plugged ball constitutes free relief).
- Red penalty area relief available for all penalty areas.
- Ball in penalty area may be played as it lies, otherwise take relief with 1 penalty stroke.
- Yellow penalty area distinction removed due to local red-only rule.
- Ball moved by wind on green must be played from new location.
- No grounding club in bunker behind ball (stroke penalty).
- Loose impediments may be removed in bunkers if ball does not move.
- Unplayable ball may be declared anywhere except penalty area (1 penalty stroke for declaration of an unplayable ball).
- Three relief options for unplayable ball; two-stroke option to exit bunker.
- Maintain pace with group ahead.
- Equipment must conform to rules. A maximum of 14 clubs is allowed in a players bag.
- If a ball breaks during play, the stroke is cancelled and replayed.

Explanation of All Relief Types

Free Relief

Given for immovable obstructions, abnormal ground conditions, and dangerous animal conditions. Player finds nearest point of complete relief and drops within one club-length.

Lateral Relief (Red Penalty Area)

Drop within two club-lengths from the point where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area, no nearer the hole.

Back-on-the-Line Relief

Draw a straight line from the hole through the point of reference and drop anywhere on that line, within one club-length of the chosen spot.

Stroke-and-Distance Relief

Player returns to the spot of the previous stroke, adds one penalty stroke, and plays again.

Unplayable Ball Relief

Player may take stroke-and-distance, lateral two-club-length relief, or back-on-the-line relief.

Match Play-Specific Rules

- In match play, penalties typically result in loss of hole rather than added strokes.
- A player may not stand directly behind their opponent while they putt or make a stroke.
- Concessions of putts, holes, or matches are allowed and are binding.
- Accidentally hitting the ball in the fairway counts as a stroke and the ball must be played as it lies.
- Placing is allowed in the fairway under tour local rule conditions.
- Provisional balls are not used unless stroke-and-distance applies explicitly.

Cheating Rules – Loss of Hole (Match Play)

Any action that provides an unfair advantage—intentional or unintentional—is considered cheating and results immediately in loss of hole.

What Is Cheating?

Cheating is any violation of the rules or manipulation of conditions, equipment, or scoring that benefits the player.

List of Actions Considered Cheating

- Improving a lie by moving the ball or altering the ground.
- Taking incorrect relief, illegal drops, or dropping closer to the hole.
- Failing to apply required penalties.
- Incorrect score reporting.
- Playing a wrong ball.
- Illegally advising or receiving advice.
- Standing behind opponent during stroke intentionally (putting).
- Using illegal equipment or slope-enabled devices.
- Concealing found balls or pretending not to find a ball.
- Altering the course (breaking branches, pressing turf).

Official Rulebook Disclaimer

Any form of cheating—whether intentional or unintentional—results in immediate loss of the hole. Cheating includes but is not limited to: improving a lie, playing a wrong ball, failing to take required penalties, giving or receiving illegal advice, incorrect score reporting, misapplying relief rules, altering course conditions, or using non-conforming equipment. Matches must be played with integrity in accordance with the PGA rules of golf and the Bossies Golf Championship Local Rules.